



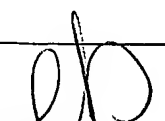
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,560	04/09/2004	Mark D. Levitt	117-P-1345USD1	1273
23322	7590	10/04/2004	EXAMINER	
IPLM GROUP, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 18455 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418			AHMED, SHEEBA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1773	

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/821,560	LEVITT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
Sheeba Ahmed	1773		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 31-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 31-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/9/04; 9/9/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Amendment

1. The preliminary amendment submitted in the above-identified application has been entered. Claims 1, 31, and 36 have been amended. Claims 20-30 have been cancelled. New claims 39 and 40 have been added. **Claims 1-19 and 31-40 are now pending.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamrock et al. (WO 98/11168).

Hamrock et al. disclose a floor finishing system comprising a radiation curable composition and a primer composition wherein the primer composition is coatable over a substrate and the radiation curable composition is coatable thereon (Page 6, lines 25-30). The radiation curable coating comprises a polyfunctional isocyanurate and a hydroxyalkyl acrylate (Page 4, lines 21-30). A preferred monomer is shown on Page 5 and contains an aromatic group (*thus meeting the limitations that the topcoat composition comprises an acrylated urethane or an aromatic urethane*). The cured, coatable composition is readily strippable from the substrate when the latex

primer is present (Page 7, lines 1-3). In applying the coating compositions of the invention to a suitable substrate, it is preferred that the composition be applied in a manner which creates a coating no greater than about 1.3 mm in thickness (Page 18, lines 29-31). With regards to the stripability rating limitations recited in claim 16, the Examiner takes the position that such property limitations must be inherently present in the coatings taught by Hamrock et al. given that the chemical composition of the coatings and the structure of the laminate as taught by Hamrock et al. and as claimed in the instant application is identical. All limitations of the claimed invention are either disclosed or inherent in the above reference.

3. Claims 1-7, 9-12, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 31-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bolgiano et al. (US 4,421,782).

Bolgiano et al. disclose flooring materials and a process for making such flooring materials whereby a substrate (***corresponding to the intermediate coating of the claimed invention***) is treated with a solution comprising water, acrylic acid and a surfactant (***corresponding to the topcoat of the claimed invention and meeting the limitations that the topcoat is UV curable and comprises an acrylate***). Upon irradiating the treated substrate, a tough and durable surface is formed (Column 2, lines 16-23). The substrate may be treated while on an intermediate support surface or when in place on a finished product (Column 3, lines 5-12). The aqueous acrylic acid solution comprises 0.1 to about 75 percent by weight of acrylic acid and from about 0.01 to about 5 percent by weight of a surfactant (Column 3, lines 48-51). The coatings are

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curable by UV irradiation (see Examples). Examples II states that the coatings were applied to a vinyl-flooring tile. All limitations of the claimed invention are either disclosed or inherent in the above reference.

4. Claims 31-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamrock et al. (WO 98/11168) in view of Holman et al. (US 6,444,134 B1).

Hamrock et al. disclose a floor finishing system (***corresponding to the strippable laminate finish kit of the claimed invention***) comprising a radiation curable composition and a primer composition (***corresponding to the intermediate coating of the claimed invention***) wherein the primer composition is coatable over a substrate and the radiation curable composition (***corresponding to the topcoat of the claimed invention***) is coatable thereon (Page 6, lines 25-30). The radiation curable coating comprises a polyfunctional isocyanurate and a hydroxyalkyl acrylate (Page 4, lines 21-30). A preferred monomer is shown on Page 5 and contains an aromatic group (***thus meeting the limitations that the topcoat composition comprises an acrylated urethane or an aromatic urethane***). The cured, coatable composition is readily strippable from the substrate when the latex primer is present (Page 7, lines 1-3).

Hamrock et al. do not specifically teach that the radiation curable coating (*i.e., the coating corresponding to the top of the claimed invention*) is water borne or that it comprises water.

However, Holman et al. disclose a method of finishing floors wherein the floor may be coated with a water based finish including urethane and acrylic polymers and copolymers and crosslinking agents (Column 2, lines 1, lines 5-6 and Column 2, lines 3-5). Examples of the polymers include aliphatic urethanes, urethane/acrylic polymers and acrylic polymers and these polymers/copolymers are designed for high performance uses, where hardness, flexibility, UV resistance, chemical resistance and abrasion resistance are desired. One specific example of the urethane/acrylic copolymer is a high solids, radiation curable, water-borne formulation by the trade name of NEORAD 3709 (Column 4, lines 11-36). Preferably, the coating compositions have a solids content of 30-70 wt.% based on the total weight of the composition (Column 4, lines 1-5).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to replace the radiation curable coating comprising a polyfunctional isocyanurate and a hydroxyalkyl acrylate, as taught by Hamrock et al., with a water based finish including urethane and acrylic polymers and copolymers and crosslinking agents given that Holman et al. specifically teach that such water-borne coatings exhibit high hardness, flexibility, UV resistance, chemical resistance and abrasion resistance. With regards to the limitation that the polymerized topcoat can be at least partially stripped from the tile in 30 minutes and that the intermediate coating has a stripability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale and that the topcoat has a stripability of 4 on a 7 point scale, the Examiner takes the position that such limitations must be met by the coatings taught by Hamrock


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and Holman given that the chemical composition of these coating and that of the claimed invention are identical.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheeba Ahmed whose telephone number is (571)272-1504. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Jones can be reached on (571)272-1535. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sheeba Ahmed
Art Unit 1773
September 30, 2004